

Appln No. 09/654,376
Amdt date January 3, 2006
Reply to Office action of October 18, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-9, 11-17, 19-27, 29-35, 37-43, 46-51, 53-59, 61-69, 71-77, 79-84 and 87-88 are pending. Claims 27, 29, 35, 37 and 39 are amended, and claims 28, 36, and 85-86 are cancelled.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Communication of November 15, 2005, clarifying the rejection of claims 27 and 35.

Claims 1, 4-9, 11-17, 19-26, 43, 46-51, 53-59, 61-69, 71-77, 79-84, 87, and 88 are allowed.

Claims 28 and 36 are rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 27 and 35 are amended to include the allowable limitations of claim 28 and 36, respectively. Accordingly allowance of the amended independent claims 27 and 35 and their respective dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 27, 29, 30, 35, 37, 39, 85 and 86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardwick et al. in view of Barghouti et al. As mentioned above, claims 27 and 35 are amended to include the allowable limitations of claim 28 and 36, respectively. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the above rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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